

Filed for intro on 02/01/95
Senate Bill _____
By _____

House Bill No.HJR0050
By Halteman Harwel

A RESOLUTION directing the Cabinet for Economic Development
to study businesses owned by women.

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee is committed to increasing the opportunities for all
individuals to contribute to the wealth of communities and the economy of the state; and

WHEREAS, according to the United States Small Business Administration over one-third
of all United States businesses are women owned, and businesses owned by women increased
by fifty-seven percent (57%) in a ten-year period; and

WHEREAS, as of 1992, businesses owned by women employed more people than the
Fortune 500 companies, according to a National Foundation for Women Owned Businesses
survey, and by the year 2000 women are projected to own fifty percent (50%) of all businesses;
and

WHEREAS, businesses owned by women operate in every industrial sector including
manufacturing, construction, agribusiness, retail, and high-growth industries, such as health,
business, and professional services; and

WHEREAS, access to capital is the greatest barrier to growth, but discrimination takes
many forms adversely impacting the ability of businesses owned by women to raise or secure
capital, to acquire managerial talents, and to capture market opportunities; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee women and businesses owned by women should have a greater and more meaningful role in the state's economic development programs and in public and private economic development initiatives; and

WHEREAS, increasing economic opportunities for Tennessee women will improve the quality of life for all Tennesseans; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Cabinet for Economic Development is directed to study businesses owned by women in Tennessee. The study may include, but not be limited to, the following:

- (a) Statistical information concerning the women owned businesses in the state of Tennessee, including number, type, location, number of employees, and financial status;

- (b) Data collected and available by private and public sector, entities relating to businesses owned by women;

- (c) The status of businesses owned by women statewide, including progress made and barriers that remain to business growth, start-up business concerns, and reasons for business failures;

- (d) Types of services and assistance needed by businesses owned by women including:

- (1) Financial, including:

- (A) Access to private and public capital and infrastructure assistance;

- (B) Applying for and securing business credit and investment capital;

- (C) Preparing and presenting business statements;

- (D) Managing cash-flow; and

- (E) Otherwise managing the financial operations of a business concern;
- (2) Marketing, including:
 - (A) Access to government procurement and service contracts;
 - (B) Identifying and selecting domestic and international market opportunities;
 - (C) Preparing and executing marketing plans;
 - (D) Developing pricing strategies;
 - (E) Locating contract opportunities and negotiating contracts;
 and
 - (F) Utilizing public relations and advertising techniques;
- (3) Management and administration, including:
 - (A) Accessing trained and qualified employees;
 - (B) Planning, organizing, directing, and supporting employees;
 - (C) Training related to safety and security issues;
 - (D) Information about regulatory requirements, including identifying and countering discriminatory practices;
 - (E) Developing new technologies and information; and
 - (F) Creating a high performance work organization; and
- (4) Networking, including:
 - (A) Accessing government programs at all levels;
 - (B) Accessing trade and professional associations, similar business sector alliances, telecommunication networks; and
 - (C) Other types of private services and partnerships;
- (e) The level of government assistance to businesses owned by women, including:
 - (1) The role of government agencies;

(2) The degree to which government programs and services are utilized by businesses owned by women;

(3) The degree to which government programs and services are available and marketed to businesses owned by women; and

(4) Identification of statutory, regulatory, policy, or practice barriers to government service for women business owners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an executive task force on businesses owned by women shall be established to assist the Cabinet for Economic Development in the study of activities related to the provisions of the first resolving clause of this joint resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the task force shall consist of nine (9) members including the President of the Nashville Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners, the President of the Chattanooga Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners, the President of the Knoxville Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners, an appointed representative woman from the Small Business Administration, and five (5) at-large members appointed from a list of women who own businesses.

The five (5) at-large members shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of eighteen (18) nominees as provided in this subsection:

(a) Three (3) nominees submitted by the governing body of the Nashville Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners;

(b) Three (3) nominees submitted by the governing body of the Knoxville Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners;

(c) Three (3) nominees submitted by the governing body of the Chattanooga Chapter of the National Association of Women Business Owners;

(d) Three (3) nominees submitted by the governing body of the Tennessee Minority Purchasing Council;

(e) Three (3) nominees submitted by the governing body of the Mid-South Purchasing Council; and

(f) Three (3) nominees submitted by the governing body of the National Federation of Independent Businesses.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, in making the nominations and appointments, the recommending entities and the Governor shall attempt to assure representation from all geographic areas of the state, large and small businesses, minorities, women, and men.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Governor shall appoint the chair of the task force from the women business owners' appointments. The task force shall meet at the call of the chair, but at least four (4) times annually.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the members of the task force shall receive no compensation for their services, but may receive reimbursement for expenses incurred in the attendance at meetings in accordance with the Comprehensive Travel Regulation as promulgated by the Department of Finance and Administration and approved by the Attorney General.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the study shall begin not later than September 1, 1995. The task force shall submit a report to the Governor and the General Assembly detailing the findings and recommendations of the study, which shall be submitted by October 1, 1996.

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